

TELETYPE

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Open Coal Mine at Karpinsk

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

REPRODUCTION
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1. Location: The Karpinsk open coal mine, base of supply for the northern Urals, is located about three kilometers from the center of Karpinsk* and in the vicinity of Bogoslovski 1/. The mine is about five kilometers long, 250 meters at the widest point and 70 meters deep. The mine can be reached by a road from Karpinsk which leads directly into the mine and by a railroad spur running toward the northwest. This spur joins the trunk line Serov-Nizhni Tagil just south of Turinsk.

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2. Installations (See Attachment I for map of installations): This mine dates back to the time of the czars, but concentrated exploitation did not take place until 1945. When PW's arrived in fall 1945 American equipment was on hand, but only part of it was in operation. German loading bridge equipment, electric locomotives, power shovels and conveyors also arrived; apparently this equipment is not to be used, since by early 1949 it was half buried under top surface removed during mining operations. Source recalls the trade name Senftenberg on some of the German equipment. With few exceptions the mechanical equipment is American; the large power shovels (ten on each of the four mining levels) are from a factory in Marion, and the dump cars for removing top surface as well as some of the locomotives are American. Smaller, less efficient, Russian shovels operate on the four mining levels.

3. The railroad switch yard, built for the mine, is located about one to two kilometers west of Karpinsk between the mine and the main railroad station. The mine tracks run along the northwest edge of the mining area.

4. The machine factory, east of the tracks between the switch yard and the main station, has its own foundry and produces spare parts for all types of equipment.

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5. Three machine shops and a forge, east of the tracks joining the switch yard and the mine, make nearly all the repairs on machinery in use.
6. A transformer, northeast of the forge, alters current supplied from Turinsk to meet the needs of Karpinsk and Bogoslovski. It is not known if this transformer is able to supply the mine.
7. The mine power supply for conveyors and other electrical equipment is obtained from an American train with three power generating units, sidetracked on the upper north side of the mine. It was in continuous operation during source's internment. Transformers for the conveyor belts are built where ever needed. This power unit is probably not used to generate electricity for Karpinsk.
8. Thirty locomotives, some German and some American, are used by the mine. On each of the first three levels, three or four locomotives are kept busy removing top surface. They leave the mine on a steep incline and run into a nearby woods to unload. The mine owns the rolling stock used in these operations.
9. Production: The work, which is extensively mechanized, is done on three levels: the top three (each 18 to 20 meters high) are concerned with surface removal and the fourth with coal mining. Surface removal is accomplished by American power shovels, and the coal thus exposed (average depth 15 meters) is prepared for blasting. After the blasting the coal is removed by small Russian shovels to conveyor belts which carry the coal up and over the opposite slope and into railroad cars. Four conveyor belts which sort the coal as it travels are in operation.
10. Total production averages 3,000 to 4,000 tons per shift with some conveyor belts averaging 900 tons in one shift. The mining is done in two eight-hour shifts, and a third shift prepares the coal for mining. Until 1946 PW's managed most of the operations in two 12-hour shifts.
11. The coal is not of outstanding quality. However, the slag content is low, and it is not resinous.
12. Other mines in the Karpinsk area are being extensively worked. An unusually productive open mine which yields as much as the Karpinsk mine has been in operation since 1945 near Volchanka** about eight kilometers northwest of Karpinsk. At Veselovka, ten kilometers east of Karpinsk, another mine is being prepared for work. But it was not yet in operation in spring 1946. Other mines are being discovered continually. These mines are the chief source of supply for the northern Siberian Urals.
13. Production from the Karpinsk and Volchanka mines goes chiefly to the industrial area of Sverdlovsk and to the aluminum industry and the electric power installations in Turinsk. A fall in the coal production of these mines would cause a serious supply problem.
14. The mine uses very little of its own coal, only enough to operate the 30 locomotives and the power generating train.
15. Management: The direction of the mine is in the hands of a civilian. At four month intervals the mine is visited by commissions composed chiefly of civilians who are informed of operations and operational equipment. Civilian German experts under contract are not employed in the mine.

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16. Personnel: The mine and associated installations employ about 1,200 per shift. About 400 PW's were engaged in removing the top surface and about 500 to 600 Russians did the mining. The remainder of the personnel work in the shops and sawmills.
17. Security measures: The area is protected by mine guards. However, certain units such as the power unit train and the sawmills have their own sentries on duty night and day.

Encl: 1 sketch map of Karpinsk Open Coal Mine

*(59-45N, 60-04E)

** (59-57N, 60-04E)

1/Washington Comment: Bogoslovski is the former name for the town of Karpinsk and is not a separate town, [REDACTED]

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